

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6630

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 517

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IV, AO

SUBJECT: IVORY COAST RESTATES POSITION OF NEUTRALITY
ON ANGOLA

SUMMARY: IN FRONT-PAGE STORY JANUARY 14, GOIC-CONTROLLED
DAILY NEWSPAPER RESTATED IVORY COAST POSITION ON ANGOLA
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CALLING FOR: (A) IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE; (B) WITHDRAWAL

OF FOREIGN TROOPS; (C) HALT TO ARMS SUPPLY; AND (D) FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. PAPER ALSO CARRIED TEXT OF FONMIN USHER'S SPEECH AT JUST-CONCLUDED OAU SUMMIT IN ADDIS ABABA. END SUMMARY.

1. IN BANNER HEADLINES JANUARY 14, FRATERNITE MATIN DECLARED GOIC POSITION ON ANGOLA AS COMPRISING THE FOUR POINTS LISTED ABOVE. FRONT-PAGE STORY ALSO LAMENTED THE OUTCOME OF THE OAU SUMMIT IN ADDIS ABABA WHICH ENDED WITHOUT THE ORGANIZATION'S BEING ABLE TO REACH A COMPROMISE SOLUTION. ARTICLE CRITICIZED INTRANSIGENCE AND BAD FAITH ON THE PART OF SOME PARTICIPANTS AND ADDED THAT RECOGNITION BY CERTAIN OAU MEMBERS OF ONE FACTION ONLY ADDED TO THE CONFUSION AND RENDERED MORE DIFFICULT DIALOGUE AMONG THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

2. SAME ISSUE OF FRATERNITE MATIN ALSO CARRIED TEXT OF GOIC FOREIGN MINISTER USHER'S SPEECH AT ADDIS ABABA, MAIN POINTS OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

A. IVORY COAST IS A COUNTRY OF DIALOGUE WHICH IS THE ONLY MEANS OF BRINGING PEACE TO ANGOLA.

B. THE DISASTROUS SITUATION IN ANGOLA RESULTS FROM THE ANTAGONISM OF 10 YEARS' STANDING BETWEEN THE MPLA AND FNLA. THE OAU BEARS A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS FOR REACTING WITH INDIFFERENCE OR INTRIGUES TO THOSE WHO OVER THE YEARS HAVE CALLED FOR THE THREE MOVEMENTS TO UNITE. AS HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY HAS STATED REPEATEDLY, NEUTRALITY FOR AFRICA IS THE ONLY WAY OF KEEPING THE CONTINENT FREE OF FOREIGN IDEOLOGIES AND MACHINATIONS.

C. THE FEARED RESULT HAS NOW COME ABOUT WITH THE CONFRONTATION OF TWO SUPERPOWERS, US AND USSR, IN ANGOLA. THERE IS A RACIST ASPECT TO SITUATION AS THE BLACK MAN IS NOW VICTIM OF PROXY WAR IN WHICH MODERN ARMS AND SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS ARE TESTED ON AFRICAN SOIL. AN IDEOLOGICAL WAR IS IN PROCESS WHICH RISKS TO DRAG ON INTERMINABLY LIKE THE WARS IN MIDDLE EAST AND INDOCHINA.

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D. SOVIET UNION AIDED THE CHINA OF MAO IN ITS WAR OF LIBERATION BUT CHINA SUBSEQUENTLY WAS PUT UNDER SOVIET HEGEMONY WHICH IT THREW OFF ONLY AFTER LONG AND DIFFICULT CONFLICT. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE THAT ANGOLA WOULD BE STRONG ENOUGH LATER TO THROW OFF "IRON COLLAR" OF SOVIET DOMINATION AS DID CHINESE.

E. DIGNITY OF AFRICA AND OAU DEMANDS THAT ALL FOREIGN POWERS WITHDRAW FROM THE CONFLICT IN ANGOLA.

F. OAU STATES WHO RECOGNIZE ONE OF THE "PSEUDO-GOVERNMENTS" IN ANGOLA ONLY ADD TO THE CONFUSION AS NONE RPT NONE OF THE THREE FACTIONS IS ALONE CAPABLE OF IMPOSING ITS WILL ON THE ENTIRE COUNTRY DESPITE ISOLATED MILITARY SUCCESSES HERE AND THERE. NONE CAN FORM A TRUE NATIONAL "GOVERNMENT."

G. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IVORY COAST IS NOT INCLINED TO RECOGNIZE ANY ONE FACTION AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE. IT WILL NOT BE BECAUSE USSR HAS RECOGNIZED ONE OF FACTIONS THAT IVORY COAST WILL DO THE SAME. IVORY COAST CALLS FOR FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY.

H. PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICA IN ANGOLA SHOULD NOT BLIND US TO THE TRUE PROBLEM. SOUTH AFRICA DID NOT INTERVENE IN MOZAMBIQUE WAR DESPITE CALLS FROM PORTUGUESE COLONIALISTS THAT IT DO SO. AS HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY HAS SAID, WHEN IDEOLOGICAL WAR BREAKS OUT, UNNATURAL ALLIANCES ARE CONTRACTED. IVORY COAST BELIEVES SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT INTERVENE IF THE ANGOLANS WERE LEFT TO THEMSELVES TO SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. IVORY COAST THEREFORE REPEATS CALLS FOR ALL FOREIGN POWERS TO WITHDRAW.

I. IVORY COAST POSITION IN SUM IS TO CALL FOR CEASE-FIRE, WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS, A HALT TO THE ARMS SUPPLY, AND THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY.
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